

in evidence will be marked for identification. The remainder of the document will be considered not to have been offered in evidence.

(3) Copies of any document offered as an exhibit under paragraph (b)(2) of this section must be delivered to the other participants appearing at the hearing by the participant offering the exhibit in evidence. The participants will be offered an opportunity to inspect the entire document and to offer as an exhibit in evidence, in like manner, any other portions of the document.

(c) *Public document items by reference.* If all or part of a public document is offered in evidence and the participant offering the document shows that all or the pertinent part of the document, is reasonably available to the public, the document need not be produced or marked for identification but may be offered in evidence as a public document by identifying all or the relevant part of the document to be offered.

(d) *Official notice of facts.* (1) A presiding officer may take official notice of any matter that may be judicially noticed by the courts of the United States, or of any matter about which the Commission, by reason of its functions, is expert.

(2) The presiding officer must afford any participant, making a timely request, an opportunity to show the contrary of an officially noticed fact.

(3) Any participant requesting official notice of facts after the conclusion of the hearing must set forth reasons to justify the failure to request official notice prior to the close of the hearing.

(e) *Stipulations.* (1) Participants in a proceeding may stipulate to any relevant matters of fact or the authenticity of any relevant documents.

(2) A stipulation may be received in evidence at the hearing and, if received in evidence, the stipulation is binding on the stipulating participants with respect to any matter stipulated.

(3) A stipulation may be written or made orally at the hearing.

§ 385.509 Admissibility of evidence (Rule 509).

(a) *General standard.* The presiding officer should exclude from evidence any irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly rep-

etitious material. The presiding officer may also exclude from evidence any other material which the presiding officer determines is not of the kind which would affect reasonable and fair-minded persons in the conduct of their daily affairs.

(b) *Ruling on evidence.* (1) The presiding officer will rule on the admissibility of any evidence offered.

(2) If any participant objects to the admission or exclusion of evidence, the participant must state briefly the grounds for the objection.

(3) The presiding officer will not permit formal exceptions to any ruling on evidence. This prohibition against formal exceptions does not preclude a participant from raising, as an issue, the validity of any ruling on evidence later in the proceeding, consistent with Rule 711.

[Order 225, 47 FR 19022, May 3, 1982, as amended by Order 225-A, 47 FR 35956, Aug. 18, 1982]

§ 385.510 Miscellaneous provisions (Rule 510).

(a) *Transcript.* (1) Any statement made at a hearing session will be transcribed in a verbatim report, with nothing omitted except as directed by the presiding officer on the record. A statement at a hearing may not occur off-the-record, except as otherwise directed by the presiding officer.

(2) After the closing of a record, changes in the transcript are not permitted, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Transcript corrections.* (1) Any correction in the transcript of a hearing may be made only if the correction conforms the transcript to the evidence presented at the hearing and to the truth.

(2) A transcript correction may be incorporated in the record, in accordance with a ruling of the presiding officer, if:

(i) Agreed to by all participants and approved by the presiding officer; or

(ii) The presiding officer requests submittal of transcript corrections and rules on the corrections submitted.

(3) Transcript corrections may be made at any time during the hearing or after the close of evidence, as the presiding officer determines appropriate,

but only if the correction is made not less than 10 days before the time for filing final briefs.

(c) *Close of evidentiary record.* The presiding officer will designate the time at which the evidentiary record is closed. Evidence may not be added to the evidentiary record after the record is closed, unless the record is reopened under Rule 716.

(d) *Copies of exhibits and motions to participants.* Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, copies of exhibits and motions will be provided at the hearing to any participants who have not been provided copies.

(e) *Fees of subpoenaed witnesses.* (1) Any witnesses subpoenaed by the Commission must be paid the same fees and mileage provided for similar services in the district courts of the United States.

(2) Any fees and mileage paid to a subpoenaed witness under paragraph (e)(1) of this section will be paid by the Commission, unless the witness is subpoenaed at the instance of a party.

(3) If the witness is subpoenaed at the instance of a party, any fees and mileage paid to the witness under paragraph (e)(1) of this section must be paid by the party. The Commission, before issuing any subpoena at the instance of the party, may require the party to deposit an amount adequate to cover the witness probable fees and mileage under paragraph (e)(1) of this section. The deposit will be refunded when the party pays the witness in full.

(f) *Offers of proof.* (1) Any offer of proof made in connection with a ruling of the presiding officer rejecting or excluding proffered oral testimony must consist of a statement of the substance of the evidence which the participant claims would be adduced by the testimony.

(2) If any excluded evidence is in the form of an exhibit or is a public document, a copy of such exhibit will constitute the offer of proof or the public document will be specified for identification.

Subpart F—Conferences, Settlements, and Stipulations

§ 385.601 Conferences (Rule 601).

(a) *Convening.* The Commission or other decisional authority, upon motion or otherwise, may convene a conference of the participants in a proceeding at any time for any purpose related to the conduct or disposition of the proceeding, including submission and consideration of offers of settlement or the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures.

(b) *General requirements.* (1) The participants in a proceeding must be given due notice of the time and place of a conference under paragraph (a) of this section and of the matters to be addressed at the conference. Participants attending the conference must be prepared to discuss the matters to be addressed at the conference, unless there is good cause for a failure to be prepared.

(2) Any person appearing at the conference in a representative capacity must be authorized to act on behalf of that person's principal with respect to matters to be addressed at the conference.

(3) If any party fails to attend the conference such failure will constitute a waiver of all objections to any order or ruling arising out of, or any agreement reached at, the conference.

(c) *Powers of decisional authority at conference.* (1) The decisional authority, before which the conference is held or to which the conference reports, may dispose, during a conference, of any procedural matter on which the decisional authority is authorized to rule and which may appropriately and usefully be disposed of at that time.

(2) If, in a proceeding set for hearing under subpart E, the presiding officer determines that the proceeding would be substantially expedited by distribution of proposed exhibits, including written prepared testimony and other documents, reasonably in advance of the hearing session, the presiding officer may, with due regard for the convenience of the participants, direct advance distribution of the exhibits by a prescribed date. The presiding officer may also direct the preparation and distribution of any briefs and other